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Mayor/ Commission,

I just wanted to share my personal thoughts on the A1A project. After hearing Mr. Bentley I was amazed this is an 8 year project now coming to fruition. I spoke with him at break and he informed me that length may not be so unusual when dealing with grants/Federal Government. It put the project in a much clearer perspective to me.

This project was originally planned prior to 2002. Thus it appears that this was a part of the annexation agreement. It seems to me that the commission help make the north look more like the south. The south part of town had just completed there beautification on A1A (drainage, colored sidewalks, lighting, brick curbs). It seems that we started this project but never completed it. The overall project included decorative lights and drainage which are now completed. Now seems to be the final phase of this, the landscape/hardscape.

The conceptual plan mentioned tonight sound like a repeat of the south with the elements mentioned. The town looks incomplete. The north area is a completely different area. We need this project to create an overall identity so that we look like one town. With common elements the South already has, we can look more cohesive.

I hope you will look at and consider the overall picture. Its very tempting to say yes lets cut this and that. Indeed there is cost but there is also opportunity. First we have been saying we want grants...well we have a big one. Not only do we have one but it is a 2/3 grant not a 50% matching. Second, this will blur the north/south divide in town. Third, This will support/increase the property values and as a result can make a significant contribution to the town on the back end, ie Property Tax revenue. These can more than offset the cost. As a 15 year Realtor I have seen this happen. These types of projects attract new residents and investments.

The project does not just benefit one street but over half the residents/area of the town. Certainly if you look at the costs of other projects you are considering this is minimal in comparison. This is not just a beautification but an investment for the near future. This

project is ready to go and not rushed. The project has a timeline that will take us into the end of year. The public will also have input as per the agreement with FDOT..

I hope you will consider my thoughts,

Thank you,

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